

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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R 121430Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L 2886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. RUDE PRAVO ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 11 THAT PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ERNESTO AUGUSTO DE MELO ANTUNES WILL VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEGINNING NOVEMBER 14.

2. ALTHOUGH RP ANNOUNCEMENT DESCRIBED IT AS WEEK-LONG VISIT, VISIT WILL ACTUALLY LAST ONLY THREE DAYS, FROM LATE AFTERNOON FRIDAY NOV. 14 UNTIL MID-DAY MONDAY NOV. 16. (ONE EXPLANATION WE HAVE HEARD FOR RP'S ERROR IS THAT INFORMATION PASSED BY TELEPHONE FROM MFA, AND "TRI DNI" (THREE-DAY) INTERPRETED AS "TYDNI" (WEEK-LONG). A S

PORTUGUESE DCM POINTED OUT, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SPAS AND GLASS FACTORIES TO KEEP ANTUNES BUSY FOR A FULL WEEK. PRESENT SCHEDULE OBVIOUSLY LEAVES LITTLE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS.)

3. PORTUGUESE MAINTAIN THERE ARE NO ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE TO BE DISCUSSED, ALTHOUGH GOC IS ATTEMPTING TO GET A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT (WHICH COULD BE SIGNED AT OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL") READY FOR SIGNATURE. VISIT IS PRIMARILY RESULT OF PERSISTENT CZECHOSLOVAK PRESSURE FOR MELO ANTUENS TO COME HERE; HE
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WAS FIRST INVITED AS MINISTER OF A PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THERE

IS ALSO CONTINUING PRESSURE ON PORTUGUESE TO INVITE CSSR
FONMIN CHNOUPEK FOR RETURN VISIT. WE SUSPECT THIS MAY
BE ANNOUNCED DURING MELO ANTUNES VISIT.

4. PORTUGUESE WERE SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK NOVEMBER 11
TO LEARN THAT PREVIOUSLY-SCHEDULED OFFICIAL DINNER TO HAVE
BEEN HOSTED BY CHNOUPEK NOVEMBER 14 HAS BEEN CANCELLED,
TO BE REPLACED BY "EVENING AT THEATER AND DINNER AT TYPICAL
CZECH RESTAURANT." CHNOUPEK WILL NOW HOST LUNCHEON FOR
HIS GUEST NOVEMBER 15.

5. PORTUGUESE AMB EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ARRANGING
BRIEFING FOR NATO AMBASSADORS WHICH IS TRADITIONAL IN
PRAGUE WHEN NATO FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS. HE SAID WHILE
THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES OF PLACE (HE IS STILL LIVING IN HOTEL
ROOM ONE FULL YEAR AFTER ARRIVAL) AND TIME, HE WAS PRESSING
TO HAVE SOME KIND OF MELO ANTUNES MEETING WITH NATO GROUP
SCHEDULED, SINCE OTHERWISE IT WILL APPEAR THAT PORTUGAL IS
SHIRKING ITS ALLIANCE DUTY.

PERRY

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